

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

TRUSTEES OF THE OPERATING ENGINEERS'  
LOCAL 324 PENSION FUND, OPERATING  
ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 HEALTH  
CARE PLAN, OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL  
324 VACATION & HOLIDAY FUND, OPERATING  
ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 RETIREE BENEFIT FUND,  
OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 APPRENTICESHIP  
FUND, and OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324  
DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN,  
Trust Funds Established and Administered  
Pursuant to Federal Law,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 19-cv-  
Hon.

BLUE RIBBON CONTRACTING, INC.,  
a Michigan corporation, NANCY E. TREDER,  
individually, and MATTHEW A. TREDER, individually,

Defendants.

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**COMPLAINT**

**NOW COME** the above-named Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys,  
**SULLIVAN, WARD, ASHER & PATTON, P.C.**, and for their Complaint against

Defendants, BLUE RIBBON CONTRACTING, INC., a Michigan corporation, NANCY E. TREDER, individually and MATTHEW A. TREDER, individually, state as follows:

1. Plaintiffs are the Trustees of the OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 PENSION FUND, OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 HEALTH CARE PLAN, OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 VACATION & HOLIDAY FUND, OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 RETIREE BENEFIT FUND, OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 APPRENTICESHIP FUND, and OPERATING ENGINEERS' LOCAL 324 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN, (hereinafter referred to as "FUNDS"). The Funds are Trust Funds established under and administered pursuant to Section 302 of the Labor Management Relations Act (hereinafter referred to as "LMRA"), 29 USC §186; and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "ERISA"), 29 USC §1001 et seq., with administrative offices in the Township of Bloomfield, Oakland County, Michigan.

2. Defendant BLUE RIBBON CONTRACTING, INC., is a Michigan corporation with its principal offices in the State of Michigan (hereinafter "BLUE RIBBON").

3. Defendants NANCY E. TREDER and MATTHEW A. TREDER, (hereinafter "INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS") are individuals who are the principal

owners and officers of BLUE RIBBON. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS are responsible for running the day-to-day operations of BLUE RIBBON and is responsible for all its decisions pertaining to the payment of contributions to the FUNDS, including decisions whether to pay contributions.

4. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS are an employer or agent of an employer engaged in commerce and in an industry or activity affecting commerce as defined in §501(1) and (3) of the LMRA, 29 USC §142(1) and (3), and within the meaning of §301(A) of the LMRA, 29 USC §185(A), or the agents acting in the interest of such an employer as defined in §501(3) of the LMRA, 29 USC §142(3). CRIMMINS is an employer within the meaning of §3(5) of ERISA, 29 USC §1002(5), and are thus obligated to make contributions to a multi-employer Plan within the meaning of 29 USC §1145.

5. The Plaintiffs administer the FUNDS pursuant to the terms and provisions of their respective Agreements and Declarations of Trust. The FUNDS have been established pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement heretofore entered into between Local Union No. 324, and 324-A Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO (hereinafter referred to as “Union”) and certain Employers and Employer Associations, whose members employ members of the Union, and are required to be maintained and administered in accordance with the provisions of the LMRA, ERISA and other applicable state and federal laws.

6. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant BLUE RIBBON was signatory to a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Union.

7. The FUNDS are third-party beneficiaries of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

8. Pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between BLUE RIBBON and the Union, BLUE RIBBON agreed to pay, in addition to wages, employee fringe benefit contributions to the FUNDS for each employee employed by LINDBERG, and covered by the Agreement.

9. That pursuant to the provisions of the CBA and the Plan and Trust documents of the FUNDS, contributions become vested plan assets on the date on which they are due.

10. That pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreements, Defendant BLUE RIBBON is required to make fringe benefit contribution payments to be remitted with the standard contribution form no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the month in which the hours were worked.

11. That pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, when such submission of payments and contributions are not timely made, the signatory employer is charged with liquidated damages, costs of collection and attorney fees.

12. That, pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement and in accordance with the Agreement and Declaration of Trust for each of the FUNDS, the

Trustees acting thereunder are authorized and empowered to examine and copy the payroll records and books of a signatory employer to permit such Trustees to determine whether such an employer is making full payments as required under the Collective Bargaining Agreement

13. That Plaintiffs are entitled as a matter of law to enforce collection of such delinquent fringe benefits pursuant to 29 USC §1132(g)(2) and Section 1145.

14. This court has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 301 of the LMRA, 29 USC §185, this being an action arising out of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the labor organization and an employer. Jurisdiction and venue are also proper pursuant to 29 USC §1132(e).

**COUNT I – Breach of Collective Bargaining Agreement and 29 USC §1145**

15. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate and adopt by reference paragraphs 1 through 14 above as though fully set forth herein.

16. That notwithstanding its contractual obligations, BLUE RIBBON has failed and refused to pay its obligations, therefore violating the Collective Bargaining Agreements and various provisions of ERISA, including but not limited to 29 USC §1145.

17. Plaintiffs are without adequate remedy at law and will suffer immediate, continuing and irreparable injury, loss and damage unless Defendants are ordered to specifically perform all obligations on Defendants' part required to be performed

under the Collective Bargaining Agreement and are restrained from continuing to refuse to perform as thereunder required.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs request that this Honorable Court grant the following relief:

- A. Order an injunction against Defendants restraining them from continuing violations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement as set forth above;
- B. Enter an Order that BLUE RIBBON, INC., open its books and records for a complete payroll audit;
- C. Enter a Judgment in favor of Plaintiffs against Defendants BLUE RIBBON, INC., NANCY E. TREDER and MATTHEW A. TREDER, individually, for all unpaid fringe benefit contributions, including those set forth in the above ordered audit, together with any liquidated damages thereon, accumulated interest, actual attorney fees, court costs, audit and other collection costs mandated by 29 USC §1132(g)(2), and such other sums as may become due to the FUNDS during the pendency of this action;
- D. Enter an Order that jurisdiction of this matter be retained pending compliance with the Court's Orders; and
- E. Any such other, further, or different relief as may be just and equitable under the circumstances.

**COUNT II – Breach of Fiduciary Duties  
of Nancy E. Treder and Matthew A. Treder**

18. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate and adopt by reference paragraphs 1 through 17 above as though fully set forth herein.

19. NANCY E. TREDER and MATTHEW A. TREDER are fiduciaries with respect to the various fringe benefit plans within the meaning of ERISA, 29 USC

§1002(21)(A) in that they exercised discretionary authority or control respecting management or disposition of the assets of the plans.

20. By engaging in the acts and omissions described, NANCY E. TREDER and MATTHEW A. TREDER have breached their fiduciary duties regarding the FUNDS within the meaning of 29 USC §1104(a)(1)(A).

21. NANCY E. TREDER and MATTHEW A. TREDER are personally liable based on breaching their fiduciary duties pursuant to 29 USC §1109(a).

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff FUNDS request that this Honorable Court grant the following relief:

- A. Order an injunction against Defendants restraining them from continuing violations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement as set forth above;
- B. Enter an Order that BLUE RIBBON, INC., open its books and records for a complete payroll audit;
- C. Enter a Judgment in favor of Plaintiffs against Defendants BLUE RIBBON, INC., NANCY E. TREDER and MATTHEW A. TREDER, individually, for all unpaid fringe benefit contributions, including those set forth in the above ordered audit, together with any liquidated damages thereon, accumulated interest, actual attorney fees, court costs, audit and other collection costs mandated by 29 USC §1132(g)(2), and such other sums as may become due to the FUNDS during the pendency of this action;
- D. Enter an Order that jurisdiction of this matter be retained pending compliance with the Court's Orders; and
- E. Any such other, further, or different relief as may be just and equitable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

**SULLIVAN, WARD,  
ASHER & PATTON, P.C.**

/s/David J. Selwocki

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